

DOE NEWS

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WASTE RETRIEVAL BEGINS ON ANOTHER HANFORD SINGLE-SHELL TANK

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that its tank farms contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group (CH2M HILL) has started retrieving waste from a ninth single-shell waste storage tank at the DOE's Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

Built in 1946, tank C-108 is one of 16 single-shell tanks in Hanford's C Tank Farm, near the center of the 560-square mile site. The tank has a capacity of 530,000 gallons and currently contains about 66,000 gallons of sludge waste that must be retrieved.

Retrieval is being accomplished using modified sluicing which sprays liquids onto the waste at a pressure of approximately 100 pounds per square inch and a flow rate of about 100 gallons per minute. The liquid breaks up and mobilizes the waste so it can be pumped to a nearby double-shell tank. But instead of using water, as is done in most sluicing operations, CH2M HILL is using liquid waste from a nearby double-shell tank. This reduces the overall volume of waste that must be stored, treated and disposed of.

Another unique feature of this retrieval activity is the use of a ten horsepower, variable height pump. Instead of being mounted on a rigid pipe as with most retrieval pumps, this one is mounted on a telescoping assembly that provides ten feet of vertical adjustment. The design enables the pump to remain near the top of the waste during retrieval and avoid becoming clogged. The flexible discharge hose remains above the pump to prevent kinking. It is able to move waste at the rate of approximately 80-85 gallons per minute through a two inch hose-in-hose transfer line. It is all stainless steel construction with very few moving parts, making it simple and reliable.

Waste retrieval operations were recently completed on Hanford tank C-204, bringing the total number of single-shell tanks retrieved at Hanford to six. Waste retrieval operations remain underway on single-shell tanks S-112 and S-102. Retrieval operations will begin in the near future in tanks C-104 and C-109.

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